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pest serum. At ports where bacteriological laboratories exist, the director of the laboratory should take charge of the serum, should distribute it to the port physicians and to captains, and should give them all necessary instructions. In case the opportunity should present itself, the directors of the laboratories should direct the employment of the serum themselves.

It is well said, "In time of peace prepare for war," and this applies especially to the war against plague. The sanitary physicians of ships and of ports are the sentinels upon whose vigilance all nations depend for the alarm.

The plague will cease to be a constant cause of disquietude and alarm to the civilized world if each country would arm itself as France has done—that is to say, provide the necessary antipest serum to arrest from the first case a nascent epidemic. Each country should organize in its great maritime centers of population, as advance guards, bacteriological laboratories well equipped and directed by competent men.

PREVENTIVE AND RESTRICTIVE MEASURES IN THE TREATMENT OF PLAGUE IN OPORTO.

[Abstract from the New York Medical Record by P. A. Surg. H. D. Geddings.]

The New York Medical Record of August 18, 1900, reviews the article of Dr. Albert Chalmette in the July North American Review on plague in Oporto, and gives a résumé of the measures which were so successfully taken for the suppression of the plague epidemic in Oporto, Portugal. In this article there are many interesting points, and we first note that much stress is laid upon the prevention of the spread of plague among susceptible animals who may play the rôle of agents in the spread of the disease. Next is noted the value that is laid upon protective inoculations with Yersin antiplague serum. It is claimed that 10 c. c. of the antiplague serum, such as is prepared by the Pasteur Institute in Paris, will protect against plague or confer an immunity for three weeks, and it is suggested that such inoculation be made obligatory.

The other methods taken appear to have been—

1. Isolation and obligatory removal of those stricken with the disease to a special hospital.

2. Compulsory vaccination (with the Yersin serum) of all persons who have been in contact with the sick or who inhabit the same house.

3. The building of temporary huts to lodge for a period of twenty days all persons who have inhabited a house where a case of plague has occurred. (This corresponds identically to the establishment of camps of detention and observation which have proved so beneficial in epidemics of yellow fever, smallpox, etc.)

4. Complete disinfection and aëration and abandoning for a period of twenty days all houses where cases of plague have been observed.

5. The organization of search committees composed of doctors, nurses, litter bearers, and police, which committees shall be arranged by districts and shall visit twice a day all dwelling places in their quarter and satisfy themselves that no case of illness exists in them.

This method is especially valuable if, as happens almost always, the population conceals cases of disease. (Notable instances of this concealment have occurred and been a source of great difficulty in the epidemic of plague at Bombay, and, on a smaller scale, it has characterized the conduct of the Chinese inhabitants of San Francisco, Cal., during the recent outbreak of plague in that city.)

6. The methodical destruction of rats and mice in ships, houses, and sewers.

7. Persons inoculated are to be allowed to freely circulate outside of the city or town in pursuit of their ordinary avocations, provided that they have been vaccinated or inoculated within a period not less than two days or exceeding fifteen days.

8. The burning of buildings of small value where many cases of the disease would indicate that there is a deeply seated infection in such house or apartment.

NOTE.—No mention seems to be made here of the use of the Haffkine prophylactic. Of course, it is expedient that those who have been directly exposed to the infection of plague, as in No. 2, should be inoculated with the Yersin serum in preference to the prophylactic, but it would seem the part of wisdom to practice general inoculation in a neighborhood or district with the Haffkine prophylactic among those who while not as yet exposed to the infection of plague may subsequently contract the infection. There seems little doubt that the protection afforded by the Haffkine prophylactic will last at least three months, which time may be increased, possibly, to six months by a second inoculation, and the immunity conferred seems to be not only of longer duration but higher potency than that conferred by the Yersin serum.

Yellow fever on vessels running between Port Limon and Gulf ports.

A telegram was received on August 18 from Acting Assistant Surgeon Thomas, at Port Limon, Costa Rica, as follows: "Steamer *Holstein* arrived from Mobile with captain with yellow fever." * * * This vessel arrived at Mobile from Limon on the evening of Thursday, August 9, and sailed from Mobile for Limon on Saturday, August 11, at 2 p. m., the captain having slept on the ship while at Mobile.

The captain died at Limon on August 18, two days after his arrival there. Is said to have been kept aboard the ship and to have been buried at sea.

A telegram has also been received, August 24, from the president of the Louisiana State board of health to the effect that 1 case of yellow fever was taken off at the Mississippi River Quarantine from the steamer *Adler*, arriving from Port Limon.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

[Telegram.]

Status of smallpox at Cape Nome—Also measles and pneumonia.

NOME, ALASKA, August 18, 1900.

Six cases smallpox here in isolation. All convalescent. Systematic inspection last week found 12 cases measles, 18 pneumonia, no typhoid, no smallpox.

B. H. EARLE,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Quarantine Officer.

Smallpox at Dawson—Inspection at St. Michael of vessels coming from the Yukon.

MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE,
OFFICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER IN COMMAND,
Nome, Alaska, August 1, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report that passengers arriving on the 26th ultimo, via the steamship *Susie* at St. Michael, Alaska, from Dawson, Northwest Territories, reported that when they left Dawson about one